

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-8 and 12-15 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,532,003 to Nagao. Applicants traverse this rejection based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection, and that it be withdrawn.

Nagao discloses an apparatus which monitors signals from a keyboard and a coordinate detecting device, e.g., a computer mouse, and rejects any signal which is determined to be false, i.e., an inadvertent actuation of the coordinate detecting device. The apparatus only treats data not determined to be false as “valid data”. The data determined to be false is prevented from being delivered to an output (“predetermined processes corresponding to such false coordinate data will not be executed” – col. 3, lines 14-15).

Regarding Applicants present invention, independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more clearly claim the invention. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification in paragraphs 16 and 17. Claims 1 and 8 differ significantly from Nagao in that any potential signals determined as being undesired are not prevented from delivery to an output, but rather are delivered to the output in a controlled parameter situation. Examples of controlling the parameters of these signals are found in the specification (see paragraphs 23 and 24), and may include deadband, gain and slope control of the signal. Thus, the undesired signal is not prevented from being delivered to the output, but rather is delivered to the output in a controlled manner.

Applicants maintain, therefore, that independent claims 1 and 8 are patentably distinct from the teachings of Nagao. As a consequence, dependent claims 4-7 and 12-15 are in condition for allowance based on their dependence upon claims 1 and 8.

Notwithstanding the above, Applicants assert that claims 6 and 7 are not taught by Nagao. Applicants find no reference in Nagao to either “increasing an amount of deadband” (claim 6) or “controlling a gain parameter” (claim 7).

In view of the aforementioned comments, claims 1, 4-8 and 12-15 are believed to be allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-3 and 9-11 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,532,003 to Nagao in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0107502 to Alexander et al. The rejection as applied to the claims is respectfully traversed.

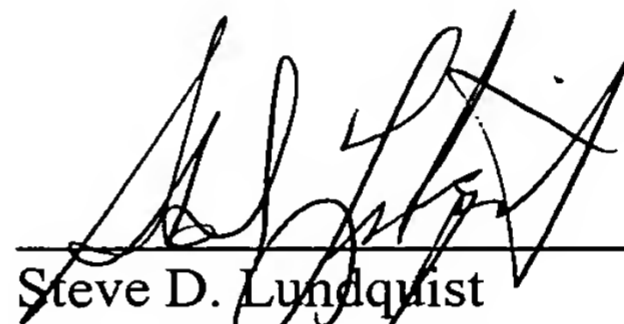
Claims 2-3 depend upon independent claim 1 which, as shown above, is allowable over the cited art. Therefore, claims 2-3 are also allowable. In like manner, claims 9-11 are also allowable in that they depend upon independent claim 8, which is shown above to be allowable.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims patentably distinguish Applicants' invention over the references cited by the Examiner, and are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and that they be withdrawn. The Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned representative if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve D. Lundquist', is written over a horizontal line.

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